



April 3rd
2006
Suffolk
Community
College



CONGRESSMAN
STEVE ISRAEL
Town Meeting on

DARFUR





Dear Neighbor,

Thank you for attending my Town Hall meeting on the situation in the Darfur region of Sudan. There is so much more that we can be doing as a nation to raise awareness and speak out against the injustices in other parts of the world. As Elie Wiesel said: "Let us remember: what hurts the victim most is not the cruelty of the oppressor but the silence of the bystander." I am pleased that so many of my friends from business, schools, faith communities, and government are able to join me here today. I want my congressional district to be among the first in America that collectively says, "We will not be silent".

I hope that today's events will give us all an opportunity to pause and reflect about our responsibilities to other people around the world. One of the main reasons I became a Member of Congress is because I feel so strongly that individuals can bring about positive change both for our country and for the world.

Again, thank you for joining me today to learn more about how we, as a community, can join together in opposition to injustices abroad.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Israel".

STEVE ISRAEL
Member of Congress



Rep. Israel Joins Local Religious Leaders
in Calling for Action to End Darfur Genocide
July, 2005



A Day for Darfur
April 3, 2006
Suffolk Community College, Brentwood, NY

9:30-9:45 am
Students Arrive

10:30-11:15
Ceremonial Reading of Names

11:15-11:35
Documentary Film: "Witnessing Darfur – Genocide Emergency"

11:35- 11:50
Break

12:00 -12:45
Panel Discussion: Congressman Steve Israel (NY-02); Yahya Osman (Darfur Rehabilitation Project); Dr. Calvin Butts (SUNY Old Westbury); Stanley Bergman (Henry Schein); Allison Cohen (American Jewish Committee).

12:45 -1:30
Audience Participation

1:30
End

Congressman Steve Israel
Town Meeting on Darfur

Thank You to All Elected Officials in Attendance

Babylon Town Supervisor Steve Bellone

Suffolk County Legislator William Lindsay

Suffolk County Legislator Jon Cooper

Suffolk County Legislator Lou Damaro

Suffolk County Legislator Vivian Viloría-Fisher

Suffolk County Legislator Ricardo Montano

Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern

Suffolk County Legislator John Kennedy

Suffolk County Legislator Wayne Horsely

Suffolk County Legislator Kate Browning

Suffolk County Legislator Elie Mystal

Suffolk County Legislator Jack Eddington

Nassau County Legislator Craig Johnson

Huntington Councilwoman Glenda Jackson

Huntington Councilwoman Susan Berland

Huntington Councilman Mark Cuthbertson

Huntington Councilman Stuart Besen

Islip Councilman Chris Bodkin

Nassau County Comptroller Howard Weitzman

Huntington Comptroller Kathleen Cannon

**Congressman Steve Israel
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The Situation in Brief

1. Where is Darfur?

Darfur is a region in the western portion of Sudan. The region borders Chad to the West, Central African Republic to the Southwest, and Libya to the Northwest.



2. What has happened in Darfur?

Since early 2003, Sudanese government forces and ethnic militia called “Janjaweed” have engaged in an armed conflict with two rebel groups called the Sudanese Liberation Army/Movement (SLA/SLM) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). As part of its operations against the rebels, government forces have waged a systematic campaign of “ethnic cleansing” against the civilian population who are members of the same ethnic groups as the rebels.

Estimated deaths since February 2003	300,000-400,000 men, women, and children.
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Darfur	1.83 Million people
Sudanese Refugees in Eastern Chad	220,000 people in refugee camps
Conflict-Affected people in need of assistance	3.5 Million people

3. What is happening in Darfur now?

In early 2005, the number of government attacks on civilians dropped, partly because the vast majority of rural villages were already destroyed and their inhabitants displaced from the rural areas. As of 2006, however, the situation has dramatically worsened and the fighting has increased. Janjaweed forces with Chadian rebels are conducting attacks over the border into Chad. Janjaweed militias are also continuing to attack civilians and aid workers, and are even attacking the camps for internally displaced people within Darfur.

¹ http://www.ajws.org/uploaded_documents/SUDAN%20FACT%20SHEET%203-6-06.pdf

4. What is Genocide? Is this one?

Genocide is defined by international law as any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group: "Killing members of the group; Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; and forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."²

President Bush and Congress have both called what is happening in Darfur a genocide.

5. Is anyone doing anything in response?

The African Union mediated an April 2004 ceasefire and sent in a ceasefire monitoring team in May 2004. As violence against civilians continued in 2004, the African Union force (AMIS) expanded and received funding and equipment from the European Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and other partners. The AMIS force now numbers 7,000 personnel, including more than 6,000 troops whose mandate includes monitoring the ceasefire and protecting civilians under "imminent threat." The African Union is also mediating negotiations for a peace agreement between the Sudanese government and the rebel movements, in Abuja, Nigeria.

The United Nations already has a peacekeeping mandate for southern Sudan, where the January 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement recently ended the twenty-one year civil war between the Sudanese government and southern rebels known as the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A). The U.N. mission in Sudan, known as UNMIS, will eventually deploy 10,000 troops to monitor and implement the north-south agreement. As of January 2006, there are 5,300 foreign troops from sixty-one countries participating in UNMIS and deployed in Khartoum and southern Sudan.³

6. Why should we care?

First, we should care as a matter of morality. Our common humanity requires that we not ignore acts of genocide. Our values obligate us to support and defend human rights in many different ways with other nations across the globe.

Second, we should care as a matter of national security. Certain conditions -- violence, oppression, poverty -- are easily exploited by terrorists who recruit new members. That is why it is so important that we work hard to promote stability, which will ultimately enhance security.

² Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (CPPCG), Article II

³ Facts and statistics from this section from <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2004/05/05/darfur8536.htm> as well as the US State Department fact sheet on Darfur <http://www.state.gov/s/inr/rls/fs/2005/45105.htm>



Washington's Response

Congress has taken several actions to oppose the situation in the Darfur region of Sudan. In July 2004 the House of Representatives and the US Senate agreed unanimously in concurrent Resolutions that the atrocities in the region were, indeed, genocide, and called for targeted sanctions against members of the Sudanese Government who are complicit in the genocide.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

- Rep. Israel has cosponsored H.R. 1424, “The Darfur Genocide Accountability Act of 2005”, which is currently pending in the House International Relations Committee. It authorizes the President to: use force to stop the Darfur genocide, including establishment of a no-fly zone and use of unmanned armed planes. It also prohibits any organization engaged in any commercial activity in Sudan from raising capital in the United States, or from trading its securities in any capital market in the United States. Further, it directs the US Secretary of State to prohibit visas for civil and military officials of the Government of Sudan; and militia members and others implicated in the Darfur atrocities; reduce the Sudanese diplomatic mission in Washington, D.C.; and restrict or control the remaining staff’s movement within the United States; and instructs the US Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN) to oppose any UN or other international conference from being held in Sudan. It directs President Bush to block the property and assets of civil and military officials of the Government of Sudan and their family members implicated in the Darfur atrocities, and property and assets controlled by the National Congress Party.
- Rep. Israel has also cosponsored H.Res. 723, also pending in the House International Relations Committee. It calls upon the United Nations Security Council to approve as soon as possible a peacekeeping force for Darfur that is well trained, equipped, and has adequate troop strength. It urges the President to take steps immediately to help improve the security situation in Darfur, by proposing that NATO should implement an interim civilian protection force using ground and air assets under centralized planning, direction, and control, to protect civilians until a United Nations peacekeeping force is fully deployed in Darfur.
- Rep. Israel recently voted for an amendment to the Supplemental Appropriation for the War on Terrorism, to authorize \$50 million for Darfur Peacekeeping. The extra \$50 million will double the size of that Mission.
- Finally, Rep. Israel has cosponsored H.R. 3127, “The Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2005.” It authorizes the President to provide assistance to reinforce the deployment and operations of an expanded African Union Mission in Sudan. It also directs the President to block the assets and deny visas and entry to any individual (and family member) responsible for acts of genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity in Sudan. It is scheduled for vote this week.

**Congressman Steve Israel
Town Meeting on Darfur**



Rep. Israel's Actions



I support all four legislative actions mentioned above:

- I cosponsored H.R. 1424 “The Darfur Genocide Accountability Act of 2005.”
- I cosponsored H.R. 723 – calling on the UN to authorize a peacekeeping mission and urging the President to take immediate steps to improve the situation.
- I voted for the supplemental \$50 million in funds to double the African Union mission in Sudan.
- I cosponsored H.R. 3127 “The Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2005.”

In addition, I am going to remain committed to raising awareness about this issue here on Long Island so that our community can lead the country in this effort.



You can be involved as well. Keep up to date by reading newspapers and websites dedicated to this issue.

- <http://www.house.gov/israel> | <http://www.savedarfur.org>
<http://www.standnow.org/> | <http://www.hrw.org>

And fill out the form below to stay in touch with my office about this issue.



Dear Congressman Israel,

- Please send me regular E-mail updates on Darfur and other federal issues
- Mail me legislative updates on Darfur

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Return to Rep. Steve Israel 150 Motor Parkway, Suite 108 Hauppauge, NY 11788

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